

PHARMACY IN THE TWIN TERRITORIES

PART 2 - MUSKOGEE, 1900 TO STATEHOOD - SELECTED DRUG STORES

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In January of 1900, Muskogee had eight drug stores. The following is a brief summary of the proprietors and the history of these stores.¹

1) John Oliver Cobb. The J. O. Cobb Drug Store was a well-known entity in Muskogee as well as in the Indian Territory. It was the successor to the earliest drug store in town operated by William Aird and William Lorenzo Squier. Subsequent to the devastating fire of 1876, the store came under the proprietorship of George W. Cummings, who took on Mason Fitch Williams as partner in 1881. Williams continued as sole proprietor after Cummings died in December of 1882. Another fire in 1887 destroyed the store and Williams sold what remained to Cobb. Cobb's drug store was managed for most of the 1890s by Henry Cowan Cobb, son of John Oliver Cobb, and one of the chief organizers of the

Indian Territory Pharmaceutical Association (ITPhA).

2) Simon Gavagan. Gavagan's Drug Store had originated in 1881 as a partnership between Gavagan and the Cass brothers. In 1882, Gavagan became the sole proprietor of the store.

3) Lee Guy Wilson. In 1900, Wilson was owner and manager of the drug store that had been established by Edgar R. Rulison in 1888. Rulison's City Drug Store was sold to Marshall Leighton Bragdon in 1894 and renamed the Palace Drug Store. After the store was purchased by Wilson in July of 1899, it was called simply Lee Wilson's.

4) Richard Laurens Hart. Hart became sole proprietor of the Hart Drug Company after Benjamin T. Estes withdrew from the partnership in the spring of 1899. This store was originally known as L. A. Barry



Figure 1. The English Block containing the Muskogee Drug Company store on right side in the middle of the block, ca. 1905. From *Muskogee Indian Territory* (Muskogee, John H. N. Tindall Co., ca. 1906): 55.

and Company, having been started in 1892 by Lee A. Barry and William Ross Shackelford. Barry sold his interest in the store in 1894 to William Otway Owen and the new firm was known as Owen and Shackelford. Later in 1894, Shackelford withdrew and the new name became Owen and Company. Hart and Estes bought out Owen in the early part of 1899, but Estes retired as a partner shortly thereafter.

5) Lewis Leaselle Moore.

Moore had started as a proprietor in 1898 in a cooperative effort with R. Y. “Kit” Edwards. At that time, his pharmacy was referred to as the “drug department” in the Racket Drug Store. It became Moore’s Pharmacy after a split from the Racket Store in January of 1899. In January of 1900, Moore’s Pharmacy was still located close to the Racket Store.

6) Numa Fletcher Hancock and James Cater Pettigrew. Hancock had been the pharmacist and manager of the Muskogee Drug Company store when it opened in December of 1898. His partners at the time were Pettigrew and the jeweler, L. J. Baker. Both drug and jewelry departments of the store were destroyed by the famous fire that burned much of the Muskogee business district in February of 1899. They reopened in the middle of May in the new English block, and Baker sold his share of the drug store to Pettigrew in August of that year.

7) Mima Lee Flinn. Flinn had been one of the original owners of the Creek Drug Company store that opened in June of 1899. Other owners in the business venture, L. F. Fue, L. A. Bell, and James Richardson, were bought out by Flinn in fall of 1899.

8) Luther D. Ward and Benjamin T. Estes. Ward and Estes operated the Model Pharmacy, the newest of the eight drug stores in Muskogee, having opened in mid-December of 1899.

Needless to say, the number of drug stores in Muskogee grew with the population. In 1900, Muskogee had 4,254 residents. In 1907, just as Oklahoma was about to become the forty-sixth state in the nation, Muskogee’s population was 14,418. It was

second largest of the cities in the new state, trailing only Oklahoma City. The explosion in population over these years was paralleled by growth in the number of drug stores. By statehood day, November 16, 1907, there were approximately twenty-three drug stores in town.²

All of the drug stores existing in January of 1900 underwent changes in ownership, management, and/or location during the subsequent years leading up to statehood. Some of the new drug stores that were established during this period were started by individuals who had been working as pharmacists in the eight drug houses existing in early 1900. Other stores were created by entrepreneurs new to Muskogee and the Indian Territory. The following is a summary of changes occurring in some of the drug stores existing at the beginning of 1900.

Muskogee Drug Company

The popularity and prosperity of the Muskogee Drug Company continued after it moved back into the English block, rebuilt in the same location following the 1899 fire (Figure 1). George Pettigrew, a pharmacy graduate from Arkansas and cousin of James Cater Pettigrew (Figure 2), started working at the Muskogee Drug Company store during the first part of 1900.³ The company had been stabilized by the financial support provided through the partnership between Hancock and Pettigrew, both of whom were widely respected. Its renewed popularity demanded additional pharmacy personnel and this need persisted for years afterward. The company and its store were described by the Muskogee Phoenix on March 22, 1900, and designated as “one of the best business houses of Indian Territory.”

In February of 1901, both Pettigrews withdrew from the Muskogee Drug Company. The partnership between James Pettigrew and Numa Fletcher Hancock was dissolved with the latter becoming sole proprietor.⁴ Not long afterward, on August 14, 1901, James Pettigrew died at age 42 in Muskogee.⁵ George Pettigrew became a partner in a new drug store with a recently arrived Muskogee resident, Samuel G. Cumberledge.

As with other business ventures, the challenges in operating the Muskogee Drug Company continued. When Mr. Penn resigned his pharmacist position at Muskogee Drug Company in April of 1901 to return to his old position in Sherman, Texas, Hancock was forced to find a replacement. In October, J. M. Lingle,



*Figure 2. James Cater Pettigrew.
From Muskogee Phoenix,
November 2, 1899.*



Figure 3. Interior of Ed A. Estes drug store in Muskogee, ca 1905. From *Muskogee Indian Territory* (Muskogee, John H. N. Tindall Co., ca. 1906): 138.

a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, arrived from Pennsylvania to work at the Muskogee drug store. Hancock subsequently operated the Muskogee Drug Company using several itinerant pharmacists to help fill prescriptions. On January 1, 1905, one of those, George Egbert McLaurine, became a partner in the company.⁶

George McLaurine was born on February 23, 1872, in Giles County, Tennessee. After graduating from Vanderbilt University College of Pharmacy, George worked in several locations as a pharmacist. On December 27, 1899, George married Lenoir Alston Cook in Warrenton, North Carolina. She was a daughter of Charles Alston Cook, a lawyer who served as associate justice of the supreme court of North Carolina just before moving to Muskogee in July of 1903. In Oklahoma, Cook served in the state House of Representatives. George and Lenoir McLaurine followed her family to Muskogee in 1904 at which time George started working as a pharmacist at the Muskogee Drug Company.⁷

McLaurine's share in the Muskogee Drug

Company increased to 100% in the summer of 1910 when Hancock decided to pursue other interests. In April of 1935, McLaurine moved his drug stock and fixtures to Stigler, Oklahoma, where he and Lenoir remained for two years. They moved back to Muskogee in 1937 where she died on July 31, 1938, and he died on January 4, 1944.⁸

Gavagan Drug Store

Simon Gavagan managed his drug store in Muskogee from the time of its founding in 1881 to the early 1890s when bouts of malaria caused him to seek other climates more favorable to his health. In 1892, he took extended trips to San Antonio and to various destinations in California and Oregon. Pat Coyne,

E. A. ESTES		NORTH MAIN STREET
Special Christmas Selections of		
Reliable Indian Novelties		
INDIAN POTTERY AND INDIAN SILVERWARE.		
PALMER PERFUMES make pleasing gifts.		

Figure 4. Advertisement by Ed Estes emphasizing "Indian Novelties." From *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, December 12, 1908.



Figure 5. Muskogee street scene looking west along Okmulgee Avenue, early 1900s, showing, on the right, part of the Ben Estes drug store, corner of Okmulgee and Main. From the author's collection.

who later established a drug store in Tulsa, provided temporary help at the drug store during these periods. By 1895, Gavagan began placing nationwide ads to sell his store and property in Muskogee. In January of 1895, his ad in Meyer Brothers Druggist noted that his drug store was the "oldest establishment and best-paying drug store in this country." It also mentioned that he wanted to retire and attend to other business. A later ad, found in the June, 1895, issue of Meyer Brothers Druggist, suggested that the total value of his store building and stock was about \$12,000 and that he was "anxious to sell." During his travels, Gavagan probably identified several places to live. By the end of 1896, his store and property still unsold, Gavagan and his family settled in a home in Los Angeles, California.⁹

Several pharmacists continued to provide relief to allow Gavagan to travel for health reasons and, later, to live in California. None of these, however, stepped forward immediately to buy his store. The list of pharmacists working for Gavagan during this period included John Kniseley, Charles Whitaker, Pat Fagan, Ora Ware, and Edward "Ed" A. Estes.¹⁰ Of these individuals, Estes appears to have provided the more consistent support at Gavagan's. He was a brother of Benjamin T. Estes, who had been a partner of Richard Laurens Hart in the 1899 purchase of Owen & Company and who, later in 1899, established the Model Pharmacy with partner Luther D. Ward. Both of the Estes brothers had lived in Texas and in Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, before moving to Muskogee in the late 1890s. Ed was born in Texas

in March of 1870 and was working in the drug store of Solon Curtice in Purcell at least by the summer of 1893. During much of the 1890s, Ed appears to have been testing the market for his pharmacy services. In addition to working at Curtice's in Purcell, he was reported to have worked at J. W. Crowds Drug Company in Dallas before moving to Purcell. After a short period of time working at Gavagan's in Muskogee during the early months of 1896, he moved back to Purcell and married Leona Boudro in May of 1896.¹¹

Finally, by the middle of 1898, Ed A. Estes had moved to Muskogee, built a house, and become a permanent fixture at Gavagan's drug store. Gavagan spent most of his time with his family in California, making at least one trip each year to oversee his substantial business interests in Muskogee. Consequently, Estes was given substantial freedom to manage the drug store and to explore new marketing opportunities. For example, it was announced in early 1900 that Ed Estes, pharmacist at Gavagan's drug store, had invented a preventative for small-pox, which was ravaging the countryside at the time.¹²

By fall of 1902, Estes was sole owner of Gavagan's drug store, adding "Indian Novelties" as a main commercial side line (Figure 4). One of his earlier promotional activities as a new owner was to offer a prize at the local Spaulding Institute to the student with the cleanest room. For most of his years as a proprietor, Estes remained in the same location in the 100 block of North Main. In 1905, he began planning for a new brick structure at the northeast corner of Main and Okmulgee, 102 North Main, that included

space occupied by his drug store. When the building was completed in April, 1908, Ed moved his drug store into the corner room of the new building, just across the street from the site of a drug store that had been owned by his younger brother Ben. In 1909, Ed Estes sold his drug store to Samuel G. Cumberledge.¹³

Ben Estes Drug Store

Benjamin T. Estes, the younger brother of Ed, became sole proprietor of the Model Pharmacy in March of 1900 after his partnership with Luther Ward dissolved. In April of the following year, the Model Pharmacy was destroyed by fire and Estes was forced to rebuild. After purchasing new stock and fixtures, he opened again at a new location in the McDaniel room on the northwest corner of Main and Okmulgee, across the street from the old Muskogee Phoenix building. This became a well-recognized place in Muskogee (Figure 5) and Estes would remain at this site for the duration of his ownership.¹⁴

Ben moved to Muskogee from Purcell at about the same time as Ed, mid-1898. Like Ed, Ben moved frequently after the brothers came to the Indian Territory from Texas. Ben had been born in 1876 in Mississippi and later moved to Texas with his family. After moving to Purcell, Ben took positions in various surrounding towns as hotel clerk before being employed at Owen and Company in Muskogee. Ben was a drug clerk at the Muskogee Drug Company store when it opened in

December of 1898.¹⁵

Ben Estes was also constantly seeking new avenues of publicity and commerce. Soon after opening in his new location at Main and Okmulgee, he purchased a new phonograph and invited the public to listen to it at his store. By December of 1901, James A. Garlick, a pharmacy graduate from Ontario, Canada, joined Estes as a drug clerk to help with the increased customer base. When the Muskogee Druggists Association was organized in 1902, Ben was elected treasurer. In July of that year, he sponsored a float in the Independence Day parade. His advertisements were designed to draw customers for the right item at the right time. As examples, he promoted cleaning of straw hats in the summer (Figure 6) and decorating flags and bunting for the visit to Muskogee of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905 (Figure 7).¹⁶

STRAW HATS

**CLEANED WHILE YOU
WAIT FOR 25 CENTS.**

Dig out your old Panama, we will
make it look as good as new. Does
not injure the finest. Satisfaction
guaranteed.

DON'T FORGET THE NAME

Ben T. Estes,

The Up To Date Druggist

Figure 6. Advertisement for straw hat cleaning. *Muskogee Daily Phoenix*, July 22, 1903.

SANTA CLAUS'

HEADQUARTERS.

The little folks' best friend, dear old Santa Claus, has secured quarters at our store and already his grand stock of

Christmas Goods

have been received and are now on display, being composed of

Dolls	Wagons	Blocks
Doll Carriages	Small Furniture	Trains
Desks	Children's Books	Steam Engines
Enameled Beds	Chairs	Toy Guns
Stands	Dressers	Horses, Whips
Center Tables	Toy Pianos	Blocks, Games

AND A THOUSAND OTHER THINGS.

A special invitation is extended to all and especially the little folks to call and see them.

♦♦♦♦♦

LEE WILSON, Druggist.

SANTA CLAUS' HEADQUARTERS.



Figure 8. Christmas advertisement by Lee Wilson. From *Muskogee Phoenix*, December 14, 1899.

Decorating Flags & Bunting

FOR SALE BY

BEN ESTES, DRUGGIST,

CORNER MAIN AND OKMULGEE

Figure 7. Banner advertisement for celebratory items placed in the *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* on April 4, 1905, the day before the visit of President Theodore Roosevelt.



Figure 9. Storefronts on the west side of second street looking north from Okmulgee Avenue, ca 1905. Lee Wilson moved his drug store into the fourth store from the corner, in the recently completed Fite-Rowsey building, in May of 1902. From *Muskogee Indian Territory* (Muskogee, John H. N. Tindall Co., ca. 1906): 18.

The sale by Estes of his store to John Powers of Clinton, Missouri, in February of 1906 was widely publicized because of the popularity of the proprietor. Soon after making the purchase, Powers was arrested on liquor charges. He quickly sold out to Ernest H. Jones, who had been working in the store as a pharmacist for Powers as well as previously for Estes. Apparently for health reasons, Jones sold the store in summer of 1907 to Roscoe E. Hadley. Jones stayed on to work as a pharmacist for Hadley, but his health failed further and he died on April 21, 1908. Jones had moved to Muskogee from Forest City, Iowa, and his body was sent back home for burial.¹⁷

Lee Wilson Drug Store

Lee Guy Wilson was born in Water Valley, Mississippi, on January 16, 1876. He came to Muskogee in late summer of 1898 to work as a drug clerk at Bragdon's Palace Drug Store. About a year earlier, he had been in Wagoner working for the S. S. Cobb Drug Store, but his home base at the time was Checotah. A year later, on July 8, 1899, he bought Bragdon's store.¹⁸

Wilson's Drug Store was a popular place in Muskogee. The advertisements for the store were entertaining (e.g., Figure 8) and Wilson used in-store music and free gifts to attract customers. Wilson was popular among pharmacists as well as the public. He was a member of a local reception committee of the ITPhA and on the agenda to present a paper entitled "Essential Oils, Perfumery and Toilet Articles" when the organization met in May of 1900 at Muskogee. It appears that he became a member in 1896 and would have been well-known to his colleagues by the time he purchased the drug store. He was certainly well-known to Muskogee pharmacists and, in May of 1902, he was elected secretary of the newly organized Muskogee Druggist Association.¹⁹

In May of 1902, Lee Wilson moved his drug store from its Main Street site into the new Fite-Rowsey building on the west side of North Second Street (Figures 9 and 10). While a drug store would be at that location for several years, Wilson would not. His health status began to fail quickly after contracting tuberculosis soon after moving to his new location.

Lee Wilson

The Leading DRUGGIST

Has moved into his elegant new quarters in the Fite-Rowsey Block on Second street. A warm welcome awaits his old customers and new friends will find everything to their satisfaction. The justly celebrated

Soda Fountain

will be in operation Friday evening. A cordial invitation is extended to you to visit this popular resort in its new home. :: :: :: ::

Figure 10. Advertisement by the Lee Wilson to publicize his move to the new Fite-Rowsey block and to remind customers that his soda fountain will also be in operation there. From Muskogee Daily Phoenix, May 23, 1902.



Figure 11. Masonic building at corner of Broadway and Second Street in Muskogee, ca 1905. The City Drug Store is located on the left, along Broadway, while the Cumberland & English Drug Store is located in the corner room of the building. From Muskogee Indian Territory (Muskogee, John H. N. Tindall Co., ca. 1906): 22.

In October of 1902, he went on an extended trip to Kerrville, Texas, trying to get well. In a return trip to Muskogee that December, he sold his drug store on Second Street to the Wagner brothers.²⁰

After selling to the Wagner brothers, Wilson spent a couple of years in Texas before moving back to Muskogee in 1904. He appears to have returned in about

October of that year and was working as a prescription clerk at the City Drug Store that December. Later in December, he became a partner with Bering Wilson in purchasing the City Drug Store at 204 West Broadway, located inside the Masonic building at the northwest corner of Broadway and Second Street (Figure 11). After Christmas of 1904, the proprietorship of the



Figure 12. John Rufas Dutton. From Dewitz, *Notable Men of Indian Territory*.²⁷

occupants in the new Masonic building at Broadway and Second Street in Muskogee (Figure 11). Before Richard Laurens Hart bought Owen & Company in partnership with Ben Estes, he had been working for the local mercantile company of H. B. Spaulding. He had probably come to Muskogee from Texas, where he was born in 1871. His younger brother, William, was with him in Muskogee in 1900, working as bookkeeper in the store, sometimes referred to as the Hart Brothers Drug Store. By January of 1903, the store was referred to as the City Drug Store.²²

Hart was an active promoter of his drug store. In August of 1902, he gave away a “gold ring” to every baby under one year of age that was brought into the store. The Western Union office was located in his store and it housed the “master clock” for others placed around the city in October of 1902. Hart was also an active participant in the pharmacy community, serving the Muskogee Druggists Association as its first vice-president in 1902.²³

In December of 1901, Edward J. Merk was a drug clerk at the Hart Drug Company. By December of 1903, he had purchased the store, officially known as the City Drug Store, from Hart. Merk had been born in Atoka, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, in January of 1878 and worked in John Schapp’s drug store at Fort Smith for seven years before moving to Muskogee. One of the positions he held before starting at Hart Drug was drug clerk at Gavagan’s Drug Store.²⁴

Merk did not remain owner of the City Drug Store for long. In August of 1904, the store was having financial problems and in October of 1904, H. B. Purcell was listed as proprietor. This coincided with

the time at which Lee Wilson, later one of the owners, became a prescription clerk in the store.²⁵

The firm of Wilson, Brasel and White, operating the City Drug Store starting in January of 1905, became Wilson and White by December of that year after Elton Brasel withdrew. When Wilson died in February of 1906, White moved to Bartlesville and then to McAlester. The City Drug Store at 204 West Broadway was no longer an entity in Muskogee.²⁶

Creek Drug Company

Just before M. L. Flinn was sent to Leavenworth to serve his prison term, his drug store, the Creek Drug Company, was sold to John Rufas Dutton (Figure 12 and 13). Dutton had come to Muskogee from Alabama in 1900 and worked as a pharmacist in the Model Pharmacy and in Gavagan’s drug store. Not long after Dutton took control of his own drug store, it was raided by U. S. Marshal Leo Bennett and District Attorney Soper, who found “Pabst beer, whiskey, and lots other drinkables.” It appears that Dutton was not punished as was his predecessor at the Creek Drug Company. Nevertheless, Dutton soon sold his drug store to John R. Veale (sometimes spelled Veal) and moved to Wetumka.²⁸



Figure 13. Advertisement by J. R. Dutton. From *Muskogee Phoenix*, August 23, 1901.

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Notes and References

¹ Details of the development of pharmacy in Muskogee to the year 1900 can be found in Carl K. Buckner, *Frontier Entrepreneurs. The Development of Commercial Pharmacy in Oklahoma. Part 4 - Early Drug Store Owners and Pharmacists*

in Muskogee. *Oklahoma Pharmacist*, 76 (No. 4, 2008): 17-25; *ibid.*, Pharmacy in the Twin Territories. Part 1 - Muskogee, 1890 To 1900. 77 (No. 1, 2009): 17-25.

² Muskogee Phoenix, February 7, 1901; Frank Moore Colby, editor, *The New International Yearbook*. (New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1908): 583; Buckner, *Frontier Entrepreneurs*. Part 4, 2008: 23.

³ Muskogee Phoenix, January 11, 1900.

⁴ *Ibid.*, February 21, 1901; Buckner, Pharmacy in the Twin Territories. Part 1, 2009: 20.

⁵ James Cater Pettigrew was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on March 20, 1859. His father was the Washington County sheriff and James worked in the sheriff's office there for about two years after his 1877 graduation from Arkansas State University. James settled in Muskogee in 1889 after gaining experience as a jailer in Fort Smith. His early experiences in Muskogee included United States court crier, bailiff, constable, and deputy marshal. Muskogee Phoenix, November 2, 1899; *ibid.*, August 15, 1901; David C. Gideon, *Indian Territory*. (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Company, 1901): 279.

⁶ Muskogee Phoenix, April 18, 1901; *ibid.*, October 21, 1901; *ibid.*, June 7, 1905.

⁷ Biographical information about George McLaurine and the Cook family obtained from Rex McLaurin at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=mclaurin&id=I04751>; Muskogee Phoenix, June 7, 1905; Muskogee Times-Democrat, January 5, 1944; Manuscripts Department, University Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill at http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Cook,Charles_Alston.html; Luther B. Hill, *A History of the State of Oklahoma*, Volume 2. (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Company, 1909): 317-319; Joseph A. Groves, *The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina*. (Atlanta, Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1901): 125-126.

⁸ *The Western Druggist*, 32 (August, 1910): 469; *Southern Pharmaceutical Journal*, 2 (August, 1910): 550; *The Midwestern Druggist*, 10 (May, 1935): 54; Muskogee Times-Democrat, August 1, 1938; *ibid.*, January 5, 1944; Muskogee Daily Phoenix, August 1, 1938; Stigler News-Sentinel, August 4, 1938.

⁹ Buckner, *Frontier Entrepreneurs*. Part 4, 2008: 21-22; Meyer Brothers Druggist, 13 (June, 1892): 213; *ibid.*, (September, 1892): 333; *ibid.*, 16 (January, 1895): 34; *ibid.*, (June, 1895): 266; Muskogee Phoenix, October 8, 1896; *ibid.*, December 3, 1896; *Indian Journal (Muskogee)*, April 7, 1892; *ibid.*, September 8, 1892.

¹⁰ Meyer Brothers Druggist, 17 (February, 1896): 74; Muskogee Phoenix, July 20, 1893; *ibid.*, March 19, 1896; *ibid.*, September 9, 1897; *ibid.*, July 8, 1897.

¹¹ *The Purcell Register*, September 15, 1893; Meyer Brothers

Druggist, 15 (April, 1894): 102; *The Purcell Register*, January 3, 1896; *ibid.*, May 29, 1896; Muskogee Phoenix, March 19, 1896. Birth date and birth place information obtained from the 1900 United States Census.

¹² Muskogee Phoenix, July 14, 1898; *ibid.*, January 18, 1900; *ibid.*, January 25, 1900. Gavagan died on October 15, 1910, during one of his business trips to Muskogee.

¹³ *Ibid.*, October 17, 1902; *ibid.*, January 1, 1903; *ibid.*, February 23, 1905; Muskogee Daily Phoenix, April 29, 1908; Muskogee Times-Democrat, February 27, 1909.

¹⁴ Muskogee Phoenix, March 29, 1900; *ibid.*, April 11, 1901; *ibid.*, May 23, 1901; *ibid.*, July 11, 1901.

¹⁵ *The Purcell Register*, August 3, 1894; *ibid.*, September 28, 1894; Muskogee Phoenix, November 10, 1898; *ibid.*, December 15, 1898. Birth date and birth place information obtained from the 1900 United States Census.

¹⁶ Muskogee Phoenix, October 10, 1901; *ibid.*, December 24, 1901; *ibid.*, May 9, 1902; *ibid.*, July 10, 1902; *The Western Druggist*, 24 (June, 1902): 355.

¹⁷ Muskogee Democrat, February 14, 1906; *The Muskogee Cimeter*, February 22, 1906; Muskogee Daily Phoenix, February 15, 1906; *ibid.*, May 17, 1906; *The Western Druggist*, 28 (October, 1906): 620; Muskogee Daily Phoenix, August 8, 1907; *ibid.*, April 22, 1908; *ibid.*, April 23, 1908; Muskogee Times-Democrat, April 21, 1908.

¹⁸ Muskogee Daily Phoenix, February 15, 1906; Meyer Brothers Druggist, 18 (October, 1897): 358; Muskogee Phoenix, September 1, 1898; *ibid.*, July 13, 1899. Wilson's father, John H., was living at Fort Smith in October of 1899, so it would appear that Wilson moved from there to Checotah in about 1896. *Ibid.*, October 19, 1899.

¹⁹ Wilson had a "musicale" in his store in early 1900. Later in that year, when he put an awning on the front of his store, he gave away pocket-books containing his advertisement and the customer's name. A cornet player himself, Wilson became president of a new band that formed in Muskogee in the summer of 1901. Muskogee Phoenix, March 8, 1900; *ibid.*, August 30, 1900; *ibid.*, August 22, 1901. An advanced agenda for the 1900 meeting of the ITPhA was published in several places, but evidence that Wilson actually made his presentation has not been found. *Ibid.*, April 5, 1900; *The Indian Citizen (Atoka)*, April 26, 1900; *Proceedings of the ITPhA (1899)*: 55; *The Western Druggist*, 22 (June, 1900): 333. He is listed as having joined the ITPhA in 1896 with membership number 45 and having served as secretary of the Muskogee Druggists Association in 1902. *Proceedings of the ITPhA (1899)*: 48; Muskogee Phoenix, May 9, 1902; *The Western Druggist*, 24 (June, 1902): 355.

²⁰ Muskogee Phoenix, May 22, 1902; *ibid.*, October 7, 1902; *ibid.*, December 16, 1902; *ibid.*, January 1, 1903.

²¹ Muskogee Daily Phoenix, October 14, 1904; *ibid.*, December

7, 1904. The identity of Bering Wilson is not known with certainty. At the time of Lee Wilson's death in 1906, two brothers, John and Benjamin, are listed in his obituary. It is possible that "Bering" was a misprint or a nickname for Benjamin. Muskogee Daily Phoenix, December 11, 1904. The proprietors in late December were listed as Lee Wilson, Elton Brasel, and Neil P. White. Muskogee Daily Phoenix, December 31, 1904. Lee Wilson died on February 6, 1906, at the Muskogee home of his father-in-law, C. H. Warth. He was survived by his wife, Ada Lillian, whom he had married in February of 1901, and two small children. Muskogee Phoenix, February 21, 1901; Muskogee Democrat, February 7, 1906; Muskogee Daily Phoenix, February 15, 1906. Tragically, his widow died only two hours after marrying J. L. Gates at St. Louis in November of 1907. *Ibid.*, November 20, 1907.

²² Muskogee Phoenix, May 17, 1900; *ibid.*, March 2, 1899. Birth date and birth place information obtained from the 1900 United States Census. Muskogee Phoenix, December 15, 1901; *ibid.*, January 1, 1903.

²³ *Ibid.*, August 26, 1902; *ibid.*, October 28, 1902; *ibid.*, May 9, 1902.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, December 24, 1901; Muskogee Daily Phoenix, December 3, 1903; Muskogee Phoenix, February 15, 1900. Richard Laurens Hart was living in Lexington, Oklahoma Territory, in June of 1904. He later moved to Montana, where he, presumably, died. Lexington Leader, June 17, 1904; 1910 and 1920 United States Census.

²⁵ Muskogee Democrat, August 15, 1904; Muskogee Phoenix, October 5, 1904.

²⁶ Muskogee Daily Phoenix, December 31, 1904; Muskogee Democrat, December 7, 1905.

²⁷ Paul W. H. Dewitz (Editor), Notable Men of Indian Territory at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century, 1904-1905. (Muskogee, Southwestern Historical Company, 1905): 122.

²⁸ Buckner, Pharmacy in the Twin Territories. Part 1, 2009: 21; Muskogee Phoenix, Feb. 28, 1901; *ibid.*, July 18, 1901; *ibid.*, September 5, 1901. In 1909, Dutton moved to Holdenville where he owned a drug store for at least thirty years. During this period, he was active in the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association, serving as vice-president in 1926. He died in Holdenville on December 8, 1957. The Southern Pharmaceutical Journal, 2 (January, 1910): 253; *ibid.*, 18 (May, 1926): 574; Holdenville Daily News, December 9, 1957.

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